

1           **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2       1. A method for deriving recovery income within a distribution supply chain comprising a  
3           plurality of transactional events facilitating the conveyance of said goods from a supplier to an  
4           end recipient, comprising:

- 5                 (a) establishing a plurality of compliance rules governing transactional events within said  
6                 supply chain;  
7                 (b) defining a monetary penalty to be imposed on a party to a transactional event upon  
8                 non-compliance with each said compliance rule;  
9                 (c) codifying said compliance rules within a computer-based system;  
10                 (d) monitoring said supply chain to detect non-compliance events;  
11                 (e) providing information regarding detected non-compliance events to said  
12                 computer-based system;  
13                 (f) automatically generating, from said computer-based system, non-compliance  
14                 charge-backs to be communicated to those parties within the supply chain upon  
15                 whom said monetary penalties are to be imposed in accordance with said  
16                 compliance rules.

17       2. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

- 18                 (g) automatically generating reports of non-compliance events.

19       3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step (d) of monitoring said supply  
20           chain comprises performing a directed audit of transactional events in said supply chain to  
21           detect violations of said compliance rules.

22       4. A system for monitoring compliance with a plurality of rules governing transactional  
23           events within a supply chain, comprising:

24                 a computer processing unit having a data store upon which at least one file encoding  
25                 said plurality of rules is stored;

26                 at least one input device for providing transactional information to said processing unit;

27                 wherein said processing unit is adapted to execute a process whereby said transactional  
28                 information is assessed for compliance with said plurality of rules;

29                 and wherein said processing unit is further adapted to automatically generate  
30                 non-compliance charge-backs upon detection of a transaction failure in which at least one of  
31                 said plurality of rules is violated in a given transaction.

1       5. A method of commercial distribution of computer software, where the execution of said  
2       software results in generation of a recovery income stream, comprising, on the part of a  
3       distributor of said software:

4              providing a computer-readable copy of said computer software for execution by a  
5              participant in a supply chain;  
6              charging said participant a software license fee proportional to said recovery income  
7              stream.

8       6. A method in accordance with claim 5, further comprising, on the part of the distributor,  
9       providing computer hardware suitable for executing said software.

10      7. A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein said software tracks compliance with  
11      rules imposed upon participants in a distribution supply chain.

12      8. A method of monitoring and enforcing compliance with rules imposed by a participant in  
13      a distribution supply chain upon transactional events occurring in said supply chain, comprising:

14              (a) for each transactional event to occur, providing transactional information concerning  
15              such event to a computer-based system having said rule codified therein;  
16              (b) assessing said transactional information to identify violations of said rules;  
17              (c) for each violation detected in step (b), automatically generating from said  
18              computer-based system a transaction chargeback reflecting a penalty to be  
19              imposed upon a party to said transactional event responsible for said violation.

20      9. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said step (a) of providing transactional  
21      information comprises entry of said information using a computer keyboard.

22      10. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said step (a) of providing transactional  
23      information comprises transmission of scanned information transmitted by radio-frequency.